

In the Claims:

Please cancel all claims presently pending in the application without prejudice.

Please add new claims 17-33 as follows:

- 17. An isolated DNA consisting essentially of nucleotides encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said protein has transaldolase enzymatic activity.
- 18. An isolated DNA consisting of nucleotides encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said protein has transaldolase enzymatic activity.
- 19. The isolated DNA of claim 17, wherein said DNA has the complete nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550 or SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080.
- 20. The isolated DNA of claim 17, wherein said DNA has the complete nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550 and degenerate variants thereof encoding a protein with transaldolase enzymatic activity having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 21. The isolated DNA of claim 17, wherein said DNA has the complete nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080 and degenerate variants thereof encoding a protein with transaldolase enzymatic activity having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
- 22. An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550; the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550, SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080 and the full complement of SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080.

23. An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1, the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3; and the full complement of SEQ ID NO:3.
24. An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and deposited under deposition number DSM 13263.
25. An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and deposited under deposition number DSM 13263.
26. An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and deposited under deposition number DSM 13263.
27. A vector comprising the DNA of any one of claims 17-26.
28. A host cell comprising the isolated DNA of any one of claims 17-26.
29. A bacterium transformed with the vector of claim 27.

30. A vector for expressing the transaldolase protein of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* comprising a promoter and a coding sequence, wherein said coding sequence consists of the DNA of any one of claims 17-26.
31. The vector of claim 30, wherein said vector is pSUZ1 deposited under deposition number DSM 13263.
32. A bacterium transformed with the vector of claim 30.
33. The bacterium of claim 31 wherein said bacterium is *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under Deposition number DSM 13263. --